stitution of this drug appeared in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, for February, 1888, which makes it possible not only to obtain a true interpretation of the various clinical observations, but clears up apparent anomalies and also indicates the reasons for observed effects, which have lately been disputed, but now admit of no further question or misunderstanding.

Among the discoveries referred to in this valuable paper, of especial interest to the physician, is the influence of a class of vegetable ferments and their recognition as the causes of various abnormal conditions, such as colic, vomiting, nausea, diarrhœa and dysentery, which occasionally attend the administration of certain drugs.

It appears that Frangula bark when fresh, contains such a ferment in excessive quantities and is, therefore, unfit for use until the ferment has exhausted itself—the process usually occupying several years. It also appears that Cascara contains some of this principle and this fact will account for the occasional untoward effects of the drug, which have been observed as consequent on the employment of a number of its preparations heretofore in the market. These facts are, therefore, not due, as has been supposed, to any idiosyncrasy on the part of the patient, or to the laxative or tonic constituents of the bark itself, but to a distinct objectionable principle, which once recognized can be rendered inoperative and harmless.—*Am. Journal Pharmacy, Feb., 1888.*

PSEUDO-ANGINA PECTORIS.—Prof. Roberts Bartholow lectured upon this subject recently at the Jefferson Medical College Hospital, Philadelphia. The patient, not yet thirty, of well-marked neurotic constitution, without history of rheumatism, syphilis, or diphtheria, presented but one abnormal condition—paroxysms of sudden pain in or about the præcordial region, shooting in all directions over the chest, especially into the left neck and shoulder, sometimes downward into the left arm. Respiration is gasping and shallow, cyanosis, an agonized expression, some protrusion of the eyes, and a cold, clammy sweat quickly appear.

First there is inhibition of the heart's movements, then the action becomes rapid and feeble, and irregular in rhythm; a deadly faintness supervenes, and loss of consciousness for an instant. Of late there have been muscular twitchings, complete unconsciousness, and the seizures are preceded by uneasy sensations. These warnings come from the organs connected with the solar plexus. May they be called an aura? Trousseau describes such cases as "marked epilepsy." In treatment it is important to recognize the true nature of these attacks. The best results are had from combining remedies addressed to the true seat of the malady and to the organs suffering the most severe functional disturbances. Thirty grains of bromide of sodium three times a day, and a one per cent. solution of nitro-glycerine, dose increasing from one minim until the characteristic action of the drug is manifested, are the remedies Dr. Bartholow ordered, and strict attention to diet as well, a small amount of fresh meat once a day, one egg at breakfast, one vegetable at dinner, some fresh fruit at supper, and the only drink a moderate cup of warm skimmed milk.—*Medical News*, Dec. 10th, 1887. L. F. B.

Electricity and Neurotherapy in the Treatment of Cancer.

In a letter to the editor of the *Medical Register*, Dr. C. H. Hughes, of St. Louis, says:

"Were the Crown Prince my patient, I would give him bromide of ammonium, muriate of ammonium, the hypophosphite and arsenic, and local and general static electrization; and I would use the static current, the direct static current, to the part, powerful enough to arrest the morbid cell activity, and remove the growth by electro-cautery, if it did not disappear. *Cancer is a neurotrophic disease, and the cancerous diathesis is neuropathic.*"

So far as we know, Dr. Hughes is the first and only physician who has ever proposed to treat cancer with electricity and a scientific neurotherapy. Views similar to those just enunciated as regards the origin and cause of the